OPERATIONAL STATUS   8121

Operational status consists of two categories, incident status and resource status. Both categories contain multiple sections of information that assist in determining overall resource response readiness.

INCIDENT STATUS   8121.1

Incident Status reflects whether the incident is:

- Uncontrolled – The status of a fire which threatens to destroy life, property, or natural resources, and (a) is not burning within the confines of firebreaks, or (b) is burning with such intensity that it could not be readily extinguished with ordinary tools commonly available.

- Contained – The completion of a control line around a fire or any associated spot fires that can reasonably be expected to stop the spread of a fire.

- Controlled – The completion of control line around a fire, any spot fires and any interior islands to be saved; burned out any unburned area adjacent to the fire side of the control lines; and cool down all hot spots that are immediate threats to the control line, until the lines can reasonably be expected to hold under the foreseeable conditions.

The Incident Commander (IC) shall notify the local Command Center each time the incident status changes. This notification shall be a minimum of at least once every twelve hours. The Unit Command Center shall be responsible for documenting in the dispatch system of record each time the incident status changes.

RESOURCE STATUS   8121.2

(See HB 8100 Exhibit - Equipment/Incident Status System)

The Command Center is responsible for maintaining the status of resources under their control, including resources assigned to local incidents. As the status of a resource changes, the Command Center shall update the status in the Dispatch and Resource Ordering System of Record. In order to provide the Regions and other Command Centers an accurate status of resources, it is important to ensure the information is continually updated.

Resource Status indicates whether a resource is:

- Available – available for immediate response

- Unstaffed – no personnel assigned to the equipment

- Committed – assigned to an incident

- Delayed – available, but not for immediate response

- Out-of-service – unavailable for response due to mechanical

- Unavailable – not available for immediate response for any reason other than listed above

The term "resource" includes individual personnel whose responsibilities or assigned duties may require accomplishing field inspections and/or making public contacts when not assigned to an incident. When requested by individual personnel, who are working in remote and potentially hazardous areas, the status of these resources shall be tracked for field safety purposes by the Command Center. For Law Enforcement personnel, HB 9467 policy and procedures shall be followed.

Resource status shall be maintained electronically (Dispatch, and Resource, Ordering Systems of Record) and manually (spreadsheets, T-card filing, or magnet boards). The manual system provides a quick visual reference of resources for the local Command Center. The electronic system provides a dynamic view of resource status and activity which can be viewed at all levels of the command and control system.

DRAWDOWN LEVELS   8121.3
(No.74 March 2016)

(See HB 8100 Exhibit - Drawdown Plan)
(See Policy 3821 - Emergency Fund Policy)

CAL FIRE has established resource drawdown levels as a tool to assist with strategic level decision making. Resource drawdown levels can be used to summarize resource availability, allocate resources in the Region, or statewide, and provide guidance to Duty Officers when considering Cover Behind, Move Up, or Preposition of resources, and/or Staffing Patterns.

Only CAL FIRE resources shall be counted in drawdown levels. The levels indicated in the following chart reflect the availability of a particular type of resource (engine, dozer, crew) for the CAL FIRE mission statewide. Resources are considered to be at normal operating levels when the number available is between seventy-five and one-hundred percent.

LEVEL	RESOURCES AVAILABLE	INITIAL ATTACK SUCCESS	CONSIDERATIONS
1	75% to 50%	PROBABLE	• Cover Behind • Move Up • Preposition • Staff Reserve/Camp Engines • Staffing Patterns • Assistance-by-Hire Equipment • Call When Needed Resources
2	49% to 25%	MARGINAL	
3	Less than 25%	UNLIKELY	

COVER BEHIND, MOVE UP, OR PREPOSITION 8121.4
(No.74 March 2016)

(See HB 3821 - Emergency Fund Policy)

Cover Behind or Move Up are mechanisms which allow Units to maintain initial attack capabilities when resources are drawn down. Neither Cover Behind nor Move Up are intended to provide coverage that exceeds normal operating levels. Costs associated with Cover Behind or Move Up shall be charged to the Emergency Fire Suppression Fund under PCA 00907.

Resources that exceed normal operating levels should be placed on a staffing pattern or preposition.

COVER BEHIND 8121.4.1
(No.81 August 2016)

Cover Behind includes holding Unit personnel on duty and calling back Unit employees in order to fill behind personnel and resources committed to incidents. This can also include staffing Unit reserve and camp engines.

Unit personnel required to maintain coverage behind an employee assigned to an incident shall charge unplanned overtime to the same incident and request number of the resource that is being covered behind. The cover behind resource shall remain on the initial incident and request number to which they were assigned for the duration of the cover assignment, unless the resource covered behind is assigned to an FMAG incident (see 8121.4.3).

No new incident or request numbers are created for Cover Behind.

MOVE UP   8121.4.2

Move up refers to providing Unit coverage with out of Unit resources and personnel. Move Up also refers to hiring non-CAL FIRE resources (including hired equipment or local government resources) to maintain blue book staffing levels.
Command Centers shall create one monthly incident number to order Move Up resources. Out of Unit personnel and resources shall track costs using the monthly Unit incident and request number on which they are ordered.

The naming convention for the monthly incident number shall be as follows:

(Unit) (Month) Move Up
Example: BDU July Move Up

REIMBURSEMENT FOR COVER BEHIND OR
MOVE UP   8121.4.3

It is in the State's interest for the Department to pursue financial reimbursement for operational costs when possible. However, operational decisions shall not be dictated by the potential for reimbursement. The only two instances when Cover Behind or Move Up resources are reimbursable are through Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) and pre-negotiated Assistance by Hire (ABH) incidents that meet the criteria below.

> ABH Incidents - In rare instances, Units, Regions or the Department may pre-negotiate an ABH agreement for specific incidents which include payment for moved up or covered behind resources in addition to the ABH resources.

Reimbursement is only available for resources moved up or covering directly behind. "Directly Behind" refers to the resource filled behind the resource assigned to the incident and not subsequent resources.

Move Up Example:

> If a MVU crew is sent to an FMAG incident and a RRU crew is moved up to MVU behind the same incident, the RRU crew in MVU would be reimbursable. If RRU requests a crew behind the Move Up to MVU, and a crew from BDU is moved up, the crew from BDU would not be reimbursable by ABH or FMAG.

Cover Behind Example:

> If an LNU camp or reserve engine is covering behind an LNU engine that is, or becomes, assigned to an FMAG incident, the cover behind engine is reimbursable by ABH or FMAG.

The Sacramento Command Center (Sac CC) shall notify Statewide ECC Staff when an incident has received FMAG approval.

If a Unit or Region negotiates ABH reimbursement for moved up or covered behind resources as described above, they shall notify the Sac CC through the chain of command. The Sac CC shall then notify Statewide ECC Staff.

The notification provided by Sac CC shall include the required financial code to be created in the Resource Ordering System of Record for moved up resources. It shall also provide direction to the Unit ECCs to advise any resources that are covering behind resources that have been reassigned to an FMAG or ABH incident to generate a new eFC-33. Resources shall use the order and request number of the resource they are covering behind (PCA 00907). Overhead shall include the name of the person they are covering behind in the comments section of the eFC-33.

In order to track Moved Up resources for reimbursement, the ECC shall create the financial code in the requests for the resources moved up directly behind as follows:

(Unit) (Incident Name) FMAG   Example: LNU Valley FMAG

Or

(Unit) (Incident Name) ABH   Example: TNF American ABH

PREPOSITION   8121.4.4

Prepositions are used for the strategic movement of resources at the Unit, Region, and/or State level to reinforce initial attack capability beyond normal operating levels in a given area or location. Prepositions are typically initiated in response to actual or predicted severe fire weather, or critical fire situations.

Prepositions may also be initiated in response to, or anticipation of, a non-fire incident or event. Prepositions may be used any time of the year.

Costs associated with prepositions related to the Department's wildland fire mission shall be charged to the Emergency Fund (E-Fund) under PCA 00907 (Budget Act Item 3540-006-0001, Provision 1). Non-fire prepositions shall not be charged to the E-Fund.

An incident number will be issued for a specific event. Individual request numbers will be issued in the Resource Ordering System of Record for each resource that is utilized.

The Unit Duty Officer will notify the Region Duty Officer when prepositioning resources.

STAFFING PATTERNS   8121.5
(No.74 March 2016)

(See HB 8100p203 – Special Staffing Pattern)
(See HB 3820 – Non-Fire Emergencies)
(See HB 3821 - Emergency Fund Policy)

Staffing Patterns are used to reinforce initial attack capability beyond normal operating levels, and may be implemented at the Unit, Region, and/or Sacramento levels. Staffing Patterns are typically initiated in response to actual or predicted severe fire weather, critical fire situations, or drawdown of CAL FIRE suppression resources. Staffing patterns may also be initiated in response to, or anticipation of, a non-fire incident or event. Staffing Patterns may be used any time of the year.

Costs associated with Staffing Patterns related to the Department's wildland fire mission shall be charged to the Emergency Fund (E-Fund) under PCA 00908. Non-fire Staffing Patterns shall not be charged to the E-Fund.

WINTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE AVAILABILITY   8121.6
(No.74 March 2016)

At a minimum each Unit shall maintain the following resources:

- Five Schedule B fire engines in a state of readiness, meaning mechanically sound and equipped, for strike team assignments.

- One crew per camp available for response at all times.

- One bulldozer in a state of readiness.

The California Northern Region (CNR) shall staff a minimum of 25 Schedule B fire engines, available for response at all times.

The California Southern Region (CSR) shall staff a minimum of 40 Schedule B fire engines, available for response at all times.

Each Region shall maintain a minimum of one CAL FIRE helicopter in a state of readiness.